

APPENDIX C

EXAMPLES OF AUTHORIZED AND UNAUTHORIZED USE OF PEPPER SPRAY

C-1. Example #1

a. A park ranger responds to excessively loud noise late at night at the park. Upon arrival, he is confronted by a hostile but unarmed man. Instead of answering the ranger's questions the man yells at the ranger and tells him to get out of his face, and threatens to attack the ranger. At this point, the man moves quickly towards the ranger.

b. Ranger Actions: The ranger is authorized to use pepper spray against this person with a verbal warning if possible. This conduct reasonably appears to be an imminent threat of physical contact and injury. The fact that the suspect is unarmed does not lessen the risk of being overpowered and rendered helpless. It is not necessary that the suspect be bigger or appear physically stronger than the ranger since the risk of danger does not necessarily depend on physical size or strength. This is a defensive use of pepper spray.

C-2. Example #2:

a. Ranger watches as two young men walk through a parking lot, looking into parked cars, and apparently placing their hands on car door handles with the intent to find unlocked cars. A number of car break-ins and larcenies have occurred in this lot and arrests have been made of suspects carrying knives and screwdrivers. The ranger gets a full physical description of the men and attempts to withdraw from the situation. The men approach the ranger and inquire as to the ranger's intent. The ranger then asks the men for identification. The men use obscene language and tell the ranger that they have no ID and have done nothing wrong, and that the ranger can do nothing to them. The men proceed to walk away.

b. Ranger Actions: In accordance with policy pepper spray is not authorized to gain compliance with questions or requests for ID. The men are displaying verbal disagreement that does not threaten the ranger. The ranger should contact local law enforcement officials immediately with details of the encounter with full descriptions of the individuals.

C-3. Example #3:

a. Ranger arrives at the scene of an apparent verbal altercation between two men. The ranger inquires as to what is going on. The men shout obscenities at each other and suddenly began flailing away at each other and the ranger. He manages to free himself and is face-to-face with his attackers who continue to advance upon the ranger with obvious hostile intent.

22 Apr 02

b. Ranger Actions: The ranger is authorized to use pepper spray against his attacker(s) without giving a warning. At this point, the ranger should contact local law enforcement personnel immediately. The individuals involved in this altercation should not be sprayed unless the ranger is somehow threatened during his scope of employment. This is a defensive action.